



MERCY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



DECEMBER 29, 2024

## ***Welcome to Mercy Presbyterian Church***

Thank you for joining us in worship today. If you are visiting with us, we are delighted that you have chosen to be with us and our desire is to be a blessing to you. Our prayer is that God will transform our lives and enable us to live for His glory and the good of the world. We would love to get to know you better and answer any questions you may have. Please share your information with us by emailing us at [church@mercydallas.com](mailto:church@mercydallas.com).

### ***Our Worship***

You will notice that we follow a thoughtful and connected rhythm in our worship, called liturgy. The order of our worship reflects the work of the gospel in our hearts. In worship, we come together to tell the story of the gospel by the structure of our worship, the content of our worship, and the way that we worship.

### ***Parents of Young Children***

We believe the church is for all people, young and old, and want Mercy to be a church where children are seen, heard, and loved. We invite you to involve your children in our service, help them understand what is going on, sing the songs with you, and participate in worship. Children learn how to worship by imitating you. We say and sing parts of our worship service every week in order to help our young children to participate. Children's bulletins with coloring activities are available by the door to the sanctuary. Nursery is also available for babies and toddlers. A Mother's Room (Room 109) is available during the service if you need a space to feed or calm a little one.

### ***Connection Points***

If you are a visitor, regular attender or member, we would love the chance to connect with you outside of Sunday mornings! Email [church@mercydallas.com](mailto:church@mercydallas.com) to connect with us and receive more information about community groups and other ministries, as well as to communicate changes to your personal information.

***Community Groups*** are a vital part of Mercy's ministry and worship. ***The Weekly Update*** is our email newsletter and the primary way we communicate announcements, information about church life, and details about upcoming events. Your ***Prayer Requests*** matter to us! If there is any way that we can pray for you, we would love the opportunity to join you in lifting your needs before the Lord. Email [church@mercydallas.com](mailto:church@mercydallas.com) to connect with us!



**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

December 29, 2024

**WELCOME**

**INVOCATION** | *We pray for God's presence, power and blessing in worship*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** | *God invites us into His presence to worship Him*

*Psalm 136:1-3; 23-26*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

**Give thanks to the God of gods,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.**

Give thanks to the Lord of lords,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

It is he who remembered us in our low estate,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

**and rescued us from our foes,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;**

he who gives food to all flesh,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

**Give thanks to the God of heaven,  
for his steadfast love endures forever**

**HYMN OF ADORATION** | *We sing praises to God*

*We Three Kings*

*Words and Music by John Hopkins | Public Domain*

We three kings of orient are  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain  
Moor and mountain  
Following yonder star

O star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still proceeding  
Guide us to thy perfect light

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain  
Gold I bring to crown Him again  
King for ever, ceasing never  
Over us all to reign

O star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still proceeding  
Guide us to thy perfect light

Glorious now behold Him arise  
King and God and Sacrifice  
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia  
Heaven to earth replies

O star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still proceeding  
Guide us to thy perfect light

**CONFESSION OF SIN** | *We acknowledge our sin and ask for God's grace*

*from Psalm 119:81-88*

**My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word. My eyes long for your promise; I ask, "When will you comfort me?"**

**O Lord, Help me! In your steadfast love give me life, that I may keep the testimonies of your mouth.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDONING GRACE** | *God forgives our sins and gives us grace*

*Psalm 119:89-90*

*Forever, O Lord, your word  
is firmly fixed in the heavens.  
Your faithfulness endures to all generations;  
you have established the earth, and it stands fast.*

**HYMN OF ADVENT** | *We celebrate God's gift of grace*

*The First Noel*

*Traditional English Carol | 17th century | Public Domain*

The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east, beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star  
Three Wise Men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Then let us with all one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
That hath made heaven and earth of naught  
And with His blood mankind hath bought.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

*He Who is Mighty*

*Words and Music by Rebecca Elliott & Kate DeGraide | Sovereign Grace Praise ©2014*

Oh, the mercy our God has shown  
To those who sit in death's shadow  
The sun on high pierced the night  
Born was the Cornerstone

Unto us a Son is given, unto us a Child is born

He Who is mighty has done a great thing  
Taken on flesh, conquered death's sting  
Shattered the darkness and lifted our shame  
Holy is His name

Oh, the freedom our Savior won  
The yoke of sin has been broken  
Once a slave, now by grace  
No more condemnation

Unto us a Son is given, unto us a Child is born

He Who is mighty has done a great thing  
Taken on flesh, conquered death's sting  
Shattered the darkness and lifted our shame  
Holy is His name, Holy is His name

Now my soul magnifies the Lord  
I rejoice in the God Who saves  
I will trust His unfailing love  
I will sing His praises all my days

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He Who is mighty has done a great thing  
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Holy is His name, Holy is His name, Holy is His name

**CONFESSION OF FAITH** | *Heidelberg Catechism* | Q&A 35 & 36

What is the meaning of these words "He was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary"?

**That God's eternal Son, who is, and continues true and eternal God, took upon him the very nature of man, of the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, by the operation of the Holy Ghost; that he might also be the true seed of David, like unto his brethren in all things, sin excepted.**

What profit dost thou receive by Christ's holy conception and nativity?

**That he is our Mediator; and with His innocence and perfect holiness, covers in the sight of God, my sins, wherein I was conceived and brought forth.**



**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** | *Rev. Doug Tharp*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** | *We lift up our requests to God*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

*During the children's sermon, pass the clipboards to check in and let us know you were here today!*

**CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

**SCRIPTURE READING** | *1 John 5:18-21* | Emily Freeman

<sup>18</sup>We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

<sup>19</sup>We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

<sup>20</sup>And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. <sup>21</sup>Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** | Rev. Doug Tharp | *1 John 5:18-21*

**SERMON NOTES**





CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER | *The family meal of Christians*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Hallelujah! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

**Therefore, let us keep the feast. Hallelujah!**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS

*We Will Feast in the House of Zion*

*Words and Music by Sandra McCracken & Joshua Moore | Drink Your Tea Music ©2015*

We will feast in the House of Zion  
We will sing with our hearts restored  
He has done great things, we will say together  
We will feast and weep no more.

We will not be burned by the fire,  
He is the Lord our God  
We are not consumed by the flood.  
Upheld, protected, gathered up.

We will feast in the House of Zion  
We will sing with our hearts restored  
He has done great things, we will say together  
We will feast and weep no more.

In the dark of night before the dawn,  
My soul be not afraid  
For the promised morning O how long?  
O God of Jacob be my strength.

We will feast in the House of Zion  
We will sing with our hearts restored  
He has done great things, we will say together  
We will feast and weep no more.

Every vow we've broken and betrayed,  
You are the faithful one  
And from the garden to the grave,  
Bind us together bring shalom.

We will feast in the House of Zion  
We will sing with our hearts restored  
He has done great things, we will say together  
We will feast and weep no more.

*All Glory Be to Christ*

*Traditional Scottish Folk Tune | Dustin Kensrue | We Are Younger We Are Faster Music ©2012*

Should nothing of our efforts stand  
No legacy survive  
Unless the Lord does raise the house  
In vain its builders strive  
To You who boast tomorrow's gain  
Tell me what is your life  
A mist it vanishes at dawn  
All glory be to Christ

All glory be to Christ our King  
All glory be to Christ  
His rule and reign we'll ever sing  
All glory be to Christ

His will be done His Kingdom come  
On Earth as is above  
Who is Himself our daily bread  
Praise Him the Lord of love  
Let living waters satisfy  
The thirsty without price  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet  
All glory be to Christ

All glory be to Christ our King  
All glory be to Christ  
His rule and reign we'll ever sing  
All glory be to Christ

When on the day the Great I Am  
The faithful and the true  
The Lamb who was for sinner's slain  
Is making all things new  
Behold our God shall live with us  
And be our steadfast Light  
And we shall e'er his people be  
All glory be to Christ

All glory be to Christ our King  
All glory be to Christ  
His rule and reign we'll ever sing  
All glory be to Christ

**ADVENT DOXOLOGY** | *(Glory Words) We praise the Triune God*

O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him.  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.  
We'll praise Your name forever, we'll praise your name forever.  
We'll praise Your name forever, Christ the Lord.

**BENEDICTION** | *God sends us out into the world with His blessing*

*May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news  
of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy and make you heralds  
of the gospel. Amen.*

**DISMISSAL** | *God sends us out into the world*



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### ***2025 Vision Dinner***

Join us for our Annual Vision Dinner on January 12<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm in the Fellowship Hall. This will be an evening of food, fellowship, and sharing. We will have dinner by table (more info to come), sing worship songs, play a fun game, and also hear an update from 2024 and vision for 2025. It will be a joyous time of fun and fellowship. This event is for the adults of Mercy and childcare will not be provided.

### ***Welcome Team***

**We need your help!** We are working on the schedule for the coming year and we need you! If you are interested in participating in the Welcome Team, please reach out to John or Jill MacLaughlin at 254-289-3609 or 254-541-5353. We appreciate your participation!

### ***Children's Ministry***

Nursery, Toddler Sunday School (during church), Children's Church (during the sermon) and Elementary Sunday School (before church) meet every week. Volunteers in this ministry are always needed. If you are interested in getting your family plugged in to this ministry, contact Emily Freeman ([emily@mercydallas.com](mailto:emily@mercydallas.com))!

### ***Youth Ministry***

Youth Group at Mercy is for 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades and generally meets on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays in the Youth Room from 6-8pm. We will take a break for the Christmas season and resume meeting on the morning of January 12<sup>th</sup>, from 9am-9:50am instead of their usual evening time.

### ***Women's Retreat***

We can't wait for you to join us for the Mercy Women's Retreat on Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> and Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. We'll kick off Friday evening at 6pm with dinner and fellowship. On Saturday, we will hear words of encouragement from our very own Andrea Thomason. Look for a registration link in the Weekly Email. We are excited to see you there!

## CALENDAR

### **Sunday, December 29**

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

### **Sunday, January 5**

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

### **Sunday, January 12**

9am - 9:50am

Youth Group | Mercy Dallas

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

6 - 8pm

Annual Vision Dinner | Mercy Dallas

### **Sunday, January 19**

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

### **Sunday, January 26**

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | Mercy Dallas

### **Friday, January 31**

6pm

Women's Retreat | Mercy Dallas

### **Saturday, February 1**

Women's Retreat | Mercy Dallas

### **Sunday, February 2**

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

### **Sunday, February 9**

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

6 - 8pm

Youth Group | Mercy Dallas

### **Sunday, February 16**

9:30 - 9:50am

Elementary Sunday School | Room 101

## FINANCIAL UPDATE AND GIVING

### Giving

If you have questions about giving, expenses or budget at Mercy, or would like more information, contact Bryan Hatfield (bryan@mercydallas.com).

If you would like to give to the work and worship of Mercy Presbyterian Church, you can:

- Mail a check to: Mercy Presbyterian Church, 12727 Hillcrest Rd., Dallas, TX 75230
- Place checks or cash in the offering box located by the door as you exit the sanctuary.
- Give by scanning the QR code:



<b>2024/2025 Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$643,000</b>
July 1, 2024 - November 30, 2024 Expenses	\$284,794
July 1, 2024 - November 30, 2024 Giving	\$264,293
<i>Variance</i>	<i>(\$20,501)</i>

### MINISTRY STAFF

#### Senior Pastor

Rev. Doug Tharp | doug@mercydallas.com

#### Church Administrator

Alison Thomas | church@mercydallas.com

#### Children's Ministry Coordinator

Emily Freeman | emily@mercydallas.com

#### Women's Ministry Coordinator

Joanna Dawson | women@mercydallas.com

#### Director of Music

Sal Bautista | music@mercydallas.com

#### Youth Group Leaders | youth@mercydallas.com

Nate and Cecile Foster

Sevee Alaniz

Blake and Lilly Edwards

### SESSION | church@mercydallas.com

Rev. Doug Tharp

Eric Clay

Jeff Dawson

Clark Morgan

Tim Thomason

### DEACONS | deacons@mercydallas.com

Thomas Buerger

Micah Cunningham

Bryan Hatfield

Phil Vanderhill

Thomas Walter